



# The “Mighty Eighth” Voice

The newsletter of Headquarters Eighth Air Force

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## QUICK TAKES

### Booster Club update

The following are important Booster Club dates:

- ♦Booster Club officer nominations due by Oct. 12.

- ♦Nov. 15, Thanksgiving Day potluck luncheon, POC Mrs. Pero at ext. 6-3334

- ♦Dec. 20, Children’s Christmas Party, POC Chief Master Sgt. Crozier at ext. 6-4313

### Historical Society Reunion

The 8th Air Force Historical Society holds their 27th annual reunion in Irving, Texas at the Harvey Hotel Oct. 24-29. The society will present two awards to active-duty members; The Pursuit of Excellence Award and The Ira Eaker Outstanding Airmanship Award. For more information, contact Master Sgt. Rick DelaHaya at DSN 781-2156.

### Information release

People who are intending to provide information to the public relating to their base jobs must have it reviewed by the public affairs office before release. The requirement covers all active-duty, civilians, Reserves, retirees and more.

Materials needing review include speeches, presentations and some written information.

For more information, contact public affairs at 456-2145

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White House photo by Eric Draper

President George Bush addressed the White House Press Corps at the Headquarters 8th Air Force conference room Sept. 11 when he was diverted here on his return to the White House following the tragic events on Sept. 11.

## Air Force One diverted

### Commander-in-Chief addresses nation, assures country from base

By Master Sergeant Rick DelaHaya  
8th Air Force Public Affairs

Eighth Air Force and the Barksdale community received an unexpected surprise Sept. 11, when President George Bush stopped at the base to make an address to the nation.

The President, who had been in Florida earlier in the morning, quickly changed plans, canceling a speech on education, and hastily boarded Air Force One after learning of the attacks.

The president’s visit to Barksdale oc-

curred in the aftermath of the World Trade Towers and Pentagon terrorist plane crashes. Bush originally was set to return to Washington D.C., but diverted to Barksdale after learning that a third aircraft crashed into the Pentagon.

The President made his first address to the nation before leaving Barksdale to travel to Offutt AFB, Neb., over security concerns for the president’s safety.

“The president was very impressed by the state of military readiness and the professionalism of our people,” said Lt. Gen. Tom Keck, Eighth Air Force Commander. “Together, we gave the president the opportunity to swiftly address the nation and

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**Global Presence...Global Influence...Global Responsibility**

# 8 AF Commander expresses thanks, prayers

Eighth Air Force Commander Lt. Gen. Tom Keck released an official statement from Barksdale Air Force Base Sept. 20 regarding the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Centers and the Pentagon to the Shreveport and Bossier City community. The following are his comments:

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the tremendous support and encouragement we at 8th Air Force are receiving. Folks from not only Shreveport and Bossier City, but through out the Ark-La-Tex and all over America have been keeping our armed forces worldwide in their thoughts and prayers and it touches us deeply.

"Let me reassure you that the airmen of the "Mighty Eighth" are ready. They are highly trained professionals. They are ready to defend America and they are ready to go anywhere, anytime.

"As always, we stand ready to support whatever is asked of us by the national command authority. We are here to defend against countries, entities and people who actively oppose the United States and dam-



Lt. Gen. Tom Keck

age our interests by acts of violence and acts of war.

"In closing, let me say that our heartfelt sympathies and prayers go out to the thousands of families involved in the tragic events of Sept. 11 in New York, Pennsylvania and at the Pentagon. We will miss our fallen comrades in arms, public servants and fellow citizens who have fallen during those terrible and cowardly terrorist attacks. May we never forget them."

## Jumper address terrorist attacks

by Tech. Sgt. Dee Ann Poole  
509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

**WHITEMAN AIR FORCE BASE, Mo.** — Gen. John P. Jumper, Air Force chief of staff, and Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Jim Finch visited here Sept. 20 to update the base's people about America's response to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon.

"I'm here to tell you what's going on, and thank you for what you're doing for your nation," Jumper said.

The terrorists tried to unnerve America but were not successful, he said.

"What they don't understand is that hitting our symbols isn't the same as hitting our spirit, and our spirit can't be squelched," said Jumper, who was in the

Pentagon when it was hit by American Airlines Flight 77. The attack took 189 lives, including 64 on the plane.

"We're going to take care of business in a profound way. We're going to teach the people of the world that America's spirit is unbreakable," Jumper said, earning cheers from the base's people.

Jumper reminded them how important their work is.

"When the nation is in a crisis, America turns to you to take care of business," he said. "This team needs to stand together, side by side, shoulder to shoulder, until the job gets done.

"This is a different kind of war, but it will include the same tools it always takes: air and space power. No one else in the world can do what you do. The Air Force will pull together and take the fight to the enemy," Jumper said, causing more cheers from an already buoyant crowd.

Jumper then answered questions about stop-loss and changes to the aero-

space expeditionary force structure.

"I don't think we'll increase our end-strength, but we'll do a stop-loss," Jumper said. "But it's not appropriate to call up the Reserves without doing a stop-loss."

Jumper then said the AEF may have to be broken for tanker and airlift support, but the Air Force would stay within the predictable AEF framework as much as possible.

Jumper ended his visit by praising President George W. Bush and the Air Force.

"You have heard President Bush. He doesn't want a pin prick, but a campaign, and we'll see it through to the end," Jumper said.

"I'm proud to be leading the greatest Air Force in the world. I'm proud to be serving alongside all of you. I'm proud of what you're able to do. When great airmen come together they make great things happen. God bless the United States of America," he said.

### The "Mighty Eighth" Voice

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**Eighth Air Force Commander**  
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# Who is responsible for morale issues?

**By Chief Master Sgt. Rich Casey  
8th Air Force Command Chief**

As I was visiting one of our duty sections this week someone shared with me that they believed morale was bad in the section. That comment got me thinking. Ever wonder where morale comes from?

Webster's says morale is "a strong sense of enthusiasm and dedication to a commonly shared goal that unifies a group." Though that definition doesn't tell us where morale is derived from, it certainly hints to the fact that morale is an individual feeling that is affected by the group and, more importantly, affects the group.

So, can you affect your own morale? Certainly you can! Can you affect the morale of your unit? Certainly you can! How do I know that? I know that because of Chief Master Sgt. George Darby. Chief Darby was the First Sergeant for the Air Force Weather Agency (AFWA) at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb. Without question, the morale at AFWA was the best on base, it was Chief Darby's fault, and I was jealous.

I actually met George Darby several weeks before I realized he was a fellow "shirt". The movers were moving our furniture into our new house, following our PCS to Offutt when my daughter asked me to come outside and listen to this weird noise. She was right, there was this indescribable noise coming from several houses behind ours. Before long all the neighbors had gathered in the back yard of the house down the street.

Fast-forward two weeks and my first "shirt" meeting at Offutt. There in that small room I heard that same indescribable noise. It was CMSgt. George Darby's laugh. When he laughed, and he always laughed, everyone laughed. The Chief was always happy and his happiness was uplifting to everyone he came in contact with.

I learned from Chief Darby to respond to "the morale is bad" with the comment, "what are you doing about it?" The standard answer is routinely something to the affect "that's the boss' problem not mine." Sure, the boss has a lot to do with morale,

but each of us is responsible for our own morale and that of our unit. There are lots of external inputs to our lives daily but ultimately it is the individual who decides how they will handle those inputs. Clearly though, no one can make you have bad morale.

We all want to work in a pleasant environment. But sometimes we forget that we are all, from E-1 to O-10, responsible for that environment. The poor morale of any one person in this chain can affect the environment of the section, flight, or unit. Virtually every day I meet young airmen who renew my belief that our Air Force has the finest people this country has to offer. They are professional,



*CMSgt. Rich Casey*

energetic, and have positive attitudes. They lift my morale.

Let me conclude by acknowledging that we all have bad days. Those are the days we have to remember that our attitude will be one of those external inputs to someone else's morale. Chief Darby knew this better than anyone. He recognized that he was the First

Sergeant and had a direct impact on morale. Despite the fact that he was undergoing chemotherapy for recurring cancer and had battled diabetes for 6 years, he had a positive impact on the morale of everyone he touched.

What have you done for your or your unit's morale today?

## Holiday greetings now available to local hometown newspapers

**SAN ANTONIO (AFPN)** — Army and Air Force Hometown News Service is planning for the second year of the newspaper Holiday Greetings program.

Hometown News Service, buoyed by the feedback from the launch of last year's initial program, wants to continue to build this free service for the troops and hometown newspapers.

"Computer technology enabled extension of the popular radio and television holiday greetings concept to the print media," said Gerry Proctor, Hometown News Service chief of marketing.

The program is unique, because unlike the broadcast greetings program, which is limited to troops serving in select overseas locations, the newspaper greetings program is open to everyone.

The Newspaper Holiday Greetings program is administered by the servicemember's participating public affairs office. The greeting form is filled out and submitted online by the servicemember. The information is elec-

tronically transmitted to a Hometown News Service database where it remains until the greetings are released to hometown newspaper editors Nov. 20.

The entire process is automated from the moment the person filling out the online form clicks the "send" button, to the final step where Hometown News Service staff e-mails the greetings to newspaper editors. And since there are no paper forms to fill out or process, there is no limit on the number of greetings the staff can process.

The releases are distributed according to ZIP codes and state. Submissions without a ZIP code or with an incorrect ZIP code go nowhere. When the servicemember enters his or her ZIP code it is picked up by the computer and distributes a release for every newspaper covering that area.

Besides having several releases generated from each form, the servicemember can input multiple forms as well.

Contact Public Affairs for more information at 456-2156.





*courtesy photo*

*President George W. Bush walks with Lt. Gen. Tom Keck, 8th Air Force commander, while at Barksdale AFB.*

### ● **PRESIDENT, from page 1**

show the world that the United States remains committed to defending freedom.”

Bush stood in front of two American flags as he announced that the military was “on high-alert status” at home and around the world, and said that officials “have taken the necessary security precautions to continue the functions of your government.” The President also added the United States would “hunt down those responsible for these cowardly acts.”

### **The following is a transcript of the President’s address at Barksdale:**

“I want to reassure the American people that the full resources of the federal government are working to assist local authorities to save lives and to help the victims of these attacks. Make no mistake: The United States will hunt down and punish those responsible for these cowardly acts.

“I’ve been in regular contact with the vice president, the secretary of defense, the national security team and my Cabinet. We have taken all appropriate security precautions to protect the American people.

“Our military at home and around the world is on high alert status, and we have taken the necessary security precautions to continue the functions of your government.

“We have been in touch with the leaders of Congress and with world leaders to assure them that we will do whatever is necessary to protect America and Americans.

“I ask the American people to join me in saying a thanks for all the folks who have been fighting hard to rescue our fellow citizens and to join me in saying a prayer for the victims and their families.

“The resolve of our great nation is being tested. But make no mistake: We will show the world that we will pass this test. God bless.”

## Commander, Congressman praise base

### **From Staff reports**

Shreveport and Bossier City civic leaders received a double pat on the back Sept. 9 at the Officers’ club here on Barksdale Air Force Base.

Lt. Gen. Thomas Keck, 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force commander and host of the annual Commander’s Call social, applauded the community spirit that has fueled support in Washington D.C., which in turn, has helped Barksdale achieve its mission over the years.

The general pointed out that Barksdale has more than 16,000 people—military and civilian personnel and their families—rooted in the area and a direct annual impact of \$430 million. It also has provided a nurturing environment for these people, which is reciprocated.

“We proudly show off Shreveport and Bossier City to visitors, literally, from all over the world,” Keck said. “We consider this a wonderful place to live, work and raise our children.”

U.S. Representative Jim McCrery, R-Shreveport, underscored the general’s

praise and reassured the more than 150 guests that the nation’s economy is basically in good shape and will rebound from the correction following an unusually long period of sustained growth.

“Barksdale is very well known inside the Pentagon for its community support,” added the congressman. “Community involve-

ment is important...your efforts have made a difference in this base.”

McCrery then segued to the economy, pointing out that despite dips in the stock numbers, the national economy still is essentially robust. And, if the country continues to pay down the



*Photo By Tech. Sgt. Rory Drew*

*U.S. Representative Jim McCrery, R-Shreveport, speaks to the more than 150 guests attending the 8th Air Force Commander’s Call Social Sept. 8 at the Officers’ Club here.*

national debt for the next four years as it has for the past three, the debt will “be the lowest it’s been since 1917.”

“I’m confident the stock market will go up. I know the economy will get better...things are good in this country, and they’re bound to get better.”

# Eighth Air Force Salutes!

## Top Achievers

The Air Force selected its top enlisted members, naming the 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year for 2001. Of the 12 selected, Air Intelligence Agency members captured three slots.



### Master Sgt. Dexter Lesieur

MSgt. Lesieur has been AIA's career advisor since April, and one of two master sergeants selected. He has been a cryptologic linguist the first 14 years of his career, and spent 2000 at the 76th Mission Support Squadron, at Kelly AFB, Texas, where he was the flight chief for the Airman Leadership School.



### Tech. Sgt. Myrna L.S. Cornelson

TSgt. Cornelson is an airborne cryptologic linguist, serving as an individual mobilization augmentee for the 97th Intelligence Squadron at Offutt AFB, Neb. She filled two active-duty deployments with the 12th Expeditionary Intelligence Squadron to Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia. While on these deployments, she flew 27 combat support missions and earned the Aerial Achievement Medal.



### Staff Sgt. Gregory Fry

SSgt Fry is also a cryptologist linguist, and is assigned to the 22nd Intelligence Squadron at Fort George G. Meade, Md. He was the operational leader for a 16-person joint service and civilian team composed of primarily more senior ranking members. Fry was also the National Security Agency's senior analytic representative to two intelligence community working groups, and selected as the project leader and expert for exploitation of two emerging high-interest technologies.

## Aerospace Warrior Attitude



### Staff Sergeant Victoria Focht

8th Air Force Protocol

**Years of service:** 8 years, 6 months

**Hometown:** Springfield, Penn.

**Family:** Son, Joshua, 5 years old

**Job title:** 8th Air Force Protocol NCOIC

**Primary duties:** Supports Eighth Air Force Commander by planning and managing executive support and protocol functions for visiting civilian and military dignitaries.

**Most rewarding job aspect:** Working with great people, and the challenge of each day being completely different -I learn something different everyday.

**Goals:** CCAF degree in both Dental Assisting and Dental Laboratory, complete a bachelor's degree in business, and graduate from dental school.

**Hobbies:** Writing, reading, cooking and spending time with my son.

**What motivates your winning attitude:** Surrounding myself with people who are positive motivators! Most importantly--my family!

**Favorite aspects of Barksdale:** The professionalism of the people on this base and thier selfless dedication to our mission-I'm proud to be a member of "Team Barksdale."

**Editor's note:** To nominate an Aerospace Warrior, the individual's supervisor should call the Public Affairs office at 456-2156. Please include the person's full name, rank and phone number.

